

Application No.: 10/003,248

Docket No.: 21065-00160-US

**REMARKS**

The Office Action has been carefully considered. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the description and of the flange bearing against a free surface through a spring thrust element, as indicated in original claim 1 and the previous remarks, is inexact. Accordingly, claim 1 is currently amended to indicate that the free surface (upper exposed surface of the first part 5) bears against a spring thrust element (18) that in turn bears against the free surface. This relationship is shown in the figures.

Applicant also would like to draw the Examiner's attention to an error in the remarks of the July 28, 2003 amendment concerning the described operation of the Schott reference appearing on page 10, second paragraph of those remarks. The paragraph should read:

In Schott, the locking means is the ring 3 which is maintained by the spring 2, and which pushes the balls 5 radially inward toward the axis, to lock the shaft 10. The sleeve 4 is used to push axially onto the ring 3, to allow the balls to move radially outwardly and unlock the shaft 10.

The foregoing corrections clarify the amendment filed July 28, 2003 which should now be entered and considered.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Dated: December 29, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By

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